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ENGLISH



**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

Meeting of MAP Focal Points

Madrid (Spain), 16-19 October 2007

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM  
APPROACH TO THE MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES  
THAT MAY AFFECT THE MEDITERRANEAN  
MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT**



**Draft Decision on the implementation of the ecosystem approach  
to the management of human activities that may affect  
the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

*Recalling* decision V/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding the description and the application of the ecosystem approach,

*Recalling paragraph 30(d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation encouraging the application of the ecosystem approach by 2010,*

*Recalling* also its decision, adopted at its 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting held in Portoroz, Slovenia, to follow the initiative of the European Commission relating to a project on the ecosystem approach, with a view to the possible application of the ecosystem approach by the whole MAP system,

*Acknowledging* with satisfaction the work accomplished in the framework of the joint EC/MAP project on the application of the ecosystem approach,

*Noting* with appreciation the conclusions and recommendations of the Government-designated Experts' Meeting held in Athens in February 2007,

**Decides** to progressively apply the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities that may affect the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment,

**Decides** to initiate a process, involving scientists and policy makers, and when appropriate, other competent bodies/organizations/authorities, aiming at the gradual application of the ecosystem approach which would include the following steps:

- i) Definition of an ecological Vision for the Mediterranean.
- ii) Setting of common Mediterranean strategic goals.
- iii) Identification of the important ecosystem properties and pressures\*.
- iv) Development of a set of ecological objectives corresponding to the Vision and strategic goals.
- v) Derivation of operational objectives with indicators and target levels.
- vi) Revision of existing monitoring programmes for ongoing assessment and regular updating of targets.
- vii) Redrafting of the management plans.

**Agrees**, as far as the first step of the process is concerned, on the following ecological vision for the Mediterranean:

*“A Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are healthy, productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations”.*

**Agrees**, as far as the second step of the process is concerned, on the following strategic goals for marine and coastal areas, on the basis of the relevant priority field of action of the MSSD and the experience gained by other international and regional bodies:

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\* From this step onwards, it is necessary to consider the appropriate spatial and temporal scale of application of the approach

- a) *To protect, allow recovery and, where practicable, restore the structure and function of marine and coastal ecosystems thus also protecting biodiversity, in order to achieve and maintain good ecological status allowing for their sustainable use.*
- b) *To reduce pollution in the marine and coastal environment so as to ensure that there are no significant impacts or risk to human and/or ecosystem health and/or on uses of the sea and the coasts.*
- c) *To preserve, enhance and restore a balance between human activities and natural resources in the sea and the coasts and reduce their vulnerability to risks.*

**Requests** the Secretariat to continue work on the basis of the road map specified above.